



## Good News for Furry Travellers!

Many of us take our pets on holiday to Europe and there has been some uncertainty surrounding this with Brexit. Here is the latest information and it is, for now, good news for travelling furry friends.

It was announced that the current pet passport scheme will be continuing in its present form during a transition period lasting until December 31, 2020.

The official guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/take-pet-abroad> and we are happy to help with everything which needs to be done, including, of course, providing pet passports.

If you are looking to travel after January 1, 2021, please take a look at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-europe-after-brex> or give us a call. We are always happy to help.



## How are your New Year resolutions going?

Did you promise yourself you would exercise more, eat more fruit, give up sugar? How about your pet? Have you checked their waistline recently?

Can you see their waist or have you noticed a saggy tummy? Carrying excess weight, although making them extra cuddly does potentially mean your pet is at risk from developing health issues such as diabetes, heart disease, arthritis, skin and back problems and liver issues.

Why not book in for a weight assessment with one of our nurses. They love to chat about how to keep your pet at their optimum weight and are happy to advise you how you can help to achieve this. Just give us a call to book an appointment with your pet.

## Baby Birds

It's that time of year again when it's common in spring and summer to find young birds sitting on the ground or hopping about without any sign of their parents. Please check the RSPCA guide before bringing any young bird to the vets. Their parents are usually close by keeping an eye on them.



For more advice on what to do please see the RSPCA website:

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/wildlife/orphanedanimals/youngbirds>



## Paws around the Park!

Sponsored Charity Dog Walk and Fun Dog Show at Godmersham Park on 26th July

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## The Importance of Wee!

Did you know your pet's urine contains information which can help your vet with early detection of disease? Twice yearly wellness examinations with your vet are key to preventing serious disease and urine testing can help.

Because of this we now include a urine test for pets who are members of our Pet Healthcare Plan. At your pet's six monthly health check (included in your plan) we will request that you bring a sample of urine for us to test.

The information that this 'dipstick' test will give us is the:

- pH of your pet's urine
- Concentration of the urine
- Protein content
- Presence of sugar or ketones
- Presence of blood or bilirubin

These individually or combined can be indications of:

- Diabetes
- Kidney disease
- Urinary tract infections
- Incontinence
- Liver disease

Depending on these results a further microscopic examination of the urine may be required which your vet will discuss with you.

It is important that the urine is collected in a container that is spotlessly clean as any residue can interfere with the test results. For example residue of jam in a jam-jar would mean your pet's urine would test positively for sugar which would be incorrect.

We would advise that you obtain a collection pot from us to collect the sample in for testing.

### For Dogs

While you are taking your dog out for a toilet break, slide your uncontaminated collection pot under their stream of urine. A saucer can be ideal for sliding under female dogs when they squat. This should ideally be done just prior to your dog's appointment with us so the sample is as fresh as possible. If this isn't convenient please refrigerate the sample until your appointment.

### For Cats

The easiest way to collect a urine sample from your cat is to replace their normal cat litter in their tray with a non-absorbing one. You can purchase a bag of Katkor which are small plastic beads and contain a pipette and collection tube for you to collect the sample in. Fresh samples give the most accurate results but please refrigerate overnight if required. If you have been unsuccessful obtaining a sample from your cat, if their bladder is full your vet may be able to obtain a sample in the consultation.



**Guide Dogs Great Big Doggie Fun Day  
(with Fun Dog Show)**

at Sandy Acres Sports and Social Centre  
Kennington on 14th June in aid of Guide Dogs